



Leading European experts come together to demand better fertility education for the younger generation

As trends show more women having their first child when fertility decline has already begun, what can we do to educate our youth on age-related fertility decline?

- Leading global experts attend a virtual event to challenge the knowledge gaps in fertility education
- Key discussions focused on the impact of current education programmes and disparity across Europe, and the need to revise educational policies to better inform the next generation about fertility health

[Budapest, Hungary] – 4 May 2021 – Leading experts from across five countries have gathered at a virtual panel event to challenge the current perception of fertility. The event aimed to challenge the knowledge gaps surrounding age-related fertility decline in women across Europe and is hosted by Fertility Europe, a leading advocate of fertility health, and sponsored by Gedeon Richter. The discussion examined how the reproductive health curriculum needs to evolve to ensure fertility becomes an integral component of young people's education.

The panel, led by medical broadcaster Dr Sarah Jarvis, came together to discuss the urgent need to educate those who are unaware of fertility decline and preservation options, and focus on how governments and health services can better educate younger people on fertility and fertility decline among women.

In Europe, the average age of women having their first child is estimated to be 29, which has been steadily increasing over the last decade.¹ A woman's fertility begins to decline at 30 years old as the quality and number of her eggs drop.² However less than a quarter of women are currently educated about this at a young age.³ Whilst the majority (90%) of women are aware that their fertility declines with age, almost half of them (40%) do not know at what age this begins.³

"Fertility health is an underestimated and misunderstood aspect of life. The sooner we can promote education and provide universal access to fair and safe treatment, the more we empower our next generation to seek control over their fertility," said **Satu Rautakallio-Hokkanen**, Chairperson of Fertility Europe.

Gedeon Richter is proud to champion discussions among women about fertility decline and education. The event has provided fertility experts the opportunity to highlight the role of fertility preservation in a global setting.

"Fertility has historically been a taboo topic. However, recent years have seen the tides turn as women's health has moved into the spotlight. With this, healthcare professionals and governments alike have an important role to play in providing accurate and reliable



information and resources,” said **Sarah Jarvis**, Chair of the panel, UK medical broadcaster and GP. “There is a need to implement informative curriculums which will equip our next generation with the right tools to make important decisions about their future.”

References:

1. Eurostat. Mean age of women at the birth of first child. Available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tps00017&plugin=1>. Last accessed 01/04/21.
2. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Having a Baby After Age 35: How Aging Affects Fertility and Pregnancy. Available at: <https://www.acog.org/patient-resources/faqs/pregnancy/having-a-baby-after-age-35-how-aging-affects-fertility-and-pregnancy#:~:text=A%20woman's%20peak%20reproductive%20years,is%20unlikely%20for%20most%20women>. Last accessed 01/04/21.
3. Data on file. Gedeon Richter. Fertility Survey Insights: UK, Germany, Spain, Italy & Belgium. 2020.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

About the panel discussion

- The panel discussion (4 May 2021): ‘*Fertility Awareness in 2021: Educating the Younger Generations*’ discussed the following key topics.
 - How we can better inform and educate both women and men on fertility and fertility decline among women
 - How the discussion on fertility has changed over time with the introduction of contraceptives (focus on avoiding unwanted or early pregnancy)
 - How fertility and fertility decline is taught in schools and reported in the media, with similarities and differences according to country
 - The role of education in furthering understanding of fertility decline

The panel discussion featured the following international experts and guests:

- **Dr Sarah Jarvis**, MBE, General Practitioner (GP), Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP), Visiting Professor of General Practice at the University of Huddersfield. Dr Jarvis is also a medical writer and broadcaster, United Kingdom (facilitator)
- **Dr Enrico Papaleo**, Chief of Reproductive Unit, Ob-Gyn Department of University Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan
- **Prof Søren Ziebe**, DSc., MSc., Head of the Fertility department at the Juliane Marie Centre, Copenhagen University Hospital
- **Frances Fitzgerald**, Irish Member of European Parliament from Dublin.
- **Satu Rautakallio-Hokkanen**, Chairperson of Fertility Europe, Belgium
- **Maria Teresa Truncellito**, Freelance Journalist, Italy



- **Angelica Alberti**, Social media influencer, Italy
- **Patrizia Ricciardone**, Patient, Italy

About Richter

Gedeon Richter Plc. (www.richter.hu), headquartered in Budapest/Hungary, is a major pharmaceutical company in Central Eastern Europe, with an expanding direct presence in Western Europe, in China and in Latin America. Having reached a market capitalization of EUR 3.6 billion (USD 4.1 billion) by the end of 2019, Richter's consolidated sales were approximately EUR 1.6 billion (USD 1.7 billion) during the same year. The product portfolio of Richter covers many important therapeutic areas, including Women's Healthcare, Central Nervous System and Cardiovascular areas. Having the largest R&D unit in Central Eastern Europe, Richter's original research activity focuses on CNS disorders. With its widely acknowledged steroid chemistry expertise, Richter is a significant player in the Women's Healthcare field worldwide. Richter is also active in biosimilar product development. For more information, please visit the GEDEON RICHTER website: www.richter.hu

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